MAKE MEANINGFUL THESE PASSING YEARS

✣ ✣ ✣

CAMPUS PRAYERS
AT
MARY BALDWIN COLLEGE

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
GIFT OF MALCOLM COWLEY

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
Lyrasis Members and Sloan Foundation

http://www.archive.org/details/makemeaningfulth00graf

MAKE MEANINGFUL THESE PASSING YEARS

BV283
C767

76077

MAKE MEANINGFUL THESE PASSING YEARS

Prayers
by
THOMAS H. GRAFTON
on the campus
of
Mary Baldwin College

The Alumnae Association
MARY BALDWIN COLLEGE
Staunton, Virginia

MARTHA S. GRAFTON LIBRARY
MARY BALDWIN COLLEGE

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 68-21671
© 1968, Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, Virginia
Printed in the United States of America
All Rights Reserved
First Edition

Bible quotations from the Revised Standard Version, copyrighted 1946 and 1952, are used by permission.

FOREWORD

Thomas Hancock Grafton came to Mary Baldwin in 1933 as head of the Department of Sociology. ✠ An ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church U. S., he has been called on many times during these 35 years to ask God's blessing for various college occasions, whether the gathering was large or small. Dr. Grafton has never failed to respond with a moving prayer, which in its solemnity or its warmth and intimacy has given special meaning to the moment. ✠ At the request of the Alumnae Association he has collected these prayers for publication to represent a typical year at Mary Baldwin College and to memorialize the addition of recent buildings on the campus.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Opening of the College 11

First Meal in the Dining Hall 13

Charter Night 15

The Sanctification of Work 17

On Founders' Day 19

Apple Day in the Orchard 21

Parents' Day 23

Opening Religious Emphasis Week 25

Dinner Meeting of the Alumnae Board 27

Celebrating a Gift from Industry 29

A Blessing at Lunchtime 31

Praising God 33

Rejoicing in the Lord 35

Adoration at Chapel 37

The Opening of Chapel on a Sunny Day 39

A Cloudy Day in Chapel 41

For a Sick Student 43

Confessing Our Sins 45

Christmas 47

Good Friday 49

Easter 51

Examinations 53

Honors 55

Elections 57

The Junior-Senior Banquet 59

From the Last Chapel Service of the Year 61

When the Alumnae Return 65

Commencement 67

Invocation at the Laying of the Cornerstone of Lyda Bunker Hunt Dining Hall *October 22, 1960* 69

Dedication of the Charles Vernon Palmer Meditation Room *October 11, 1962* 71

Litany of Dedication for Wilson Terrace on the Site of "Old Chapel" *October 18, 1963* 73

Dedication of Samuel Reid Spencer Residence Hall *September 11, 1963* 75

Litany of Dedication for the Mary Baldwin Library *April 19, 1968* 77

THE OPENING OF THE COLLEGE

Almighty God,
who hast made us after Thine image
and endowed us with self-awareness
and conscience
and the power
to make the world move,
we come to this opening with variant moods.

Some are nostalgic
for familiar environs
and sheltering presences;
some are hilarious
at being restored
to the circle of familiars;
some are solemn
with the burdens of leadership.

But let us all feel
the eyes of the Lord upon us,
and know that He will call us
to account for our stewardship.

Bless the members of our family
who may be here today or back at home.

Bless the great world
in which we shall one day play the roles
for which this college session
is a preparation.
Make meaningful these passing years
in their own right
as a time of discovery
and responsible choice
and commitment to the highest.

Let each lay aside the childish ways
which became an earlier station
and live up to the stature
of persons more adult.

Grant us for our meed the wisdom
and reverence
and self-control
promised us as we go to school,
and help us to trust in the Lord
and serve Him with faithfulness
in the high hope of our calling.

Through Him who taught
as never man taught. AMEN.

FIRST MEAL IN THE DINING HALL

Our Heavenly Father,
we recall the words
of Ruth the Moabitess,
spoken to her mother-in-law
on crossing the border into Israel,
"Thy people shall be my people,
and thy God, my God."

We are still aware
that the shifting of scene
has meaning for faith.

So our prayer is
that our coming to Mary Baldwin will result
in faith becoming richer and broader,
in trust becoming more secure,
in service leading to a deeper joy.

Now accept our thanks for this meal
and teach us from our hearts
to bless Thy holy name.

For Christ's sake, AMEN.

CHARTER NIGHT

Almighty God, the Judge of all the earth,
we have come together
to pledge support to our honor system.

We confess
we are prone to the kind of pride
that is not always comfortable
in promising to do
what all decent people assume
as a matter of course.

But as we reflect upon our lives to date,
and upon the testimony
of those who have preceded us,
we become aware
that it is easier to worship Thee with our lips
than to guard the posture of the heart.
We are kept anxious
about impulses we ill understand,
troubled by lapses we cannot account for.

We need all the help we can have, O God,
to be honest.

First, let us learn from Thine own Scripture
that humility safeguards honor.
Let us perceive, too,

that it is easier to be honest
when we are surrounded
by others whose lives and postures
betoken their sincerity.
Let us remember, finally,
that the eyes of the Lord are in every place,
keeping watch on the evil and on the good.

We thank Thee
that honor is something which can be learned.
We pray, therefore,
that each of us may supply the other
with the conditions of his learning,
while cherishing the support we receive
from those who are growing with us
in the higher self-respect.

Let us belong to the pure in heart,
and also to the company
of those whose lives are of good report.
Deliver us from all guile and suspicion;
make it natural for us to respect one another.
Teach us to esteem as holy
the conditions of living comfortably
with one another.

And when our vision becomes dim,
lead us in the paths of righteousness
for Thy name's sake. AMEN.

THE SANCTIFICATION OF WORK

Lord,
Thou hast called us through Thy Son
to work while it is day.

We would not ask, O God,
that all our labors
be without waste or failure,
for we acknowledge that our dominion,
howbeit patterned after Thine own,
is segmental
and in large measure misdirected
and wrongly motivated
even in our own eyes.

Yet grant that some portion
of our labor may endure.
Establish thou the work of our hands;
yea, the work of our hands, establish thou it.

Send us forth into Thy field
to plant and water,
praying that the Lord of the harvest
shall give the increase.

Let us be His arms
in the scattering of the seed,
knowing that apart from Him
we can do nothing,
yet refusing to blaspheme His gifts
by holding them of no account.

Let us in all our words and deeds
be overlapped by the Holy Spirit,
made wise in His wisdom,
strong in His power,
cheered in His good will.

Through Jesus Christ,
in whom our labor cannot be in vain. AMEN.

ON FOUNDERS' DAY

Lord,
even as we survey the material habitat
which we share with past generations
of students and staff members,
we claim Thee as our true dwelling place,
our eternal home.

We thank thee
for the cloud of heavenly witnesses,
for Rufus Bailey,
and Mary Julia Baldwin,
and Joseph Addison Waddell,
and the others who have led us,
and for the thousands of girls
who have succeeded each other
in dormitory and classroom.
If we know but few of the sacred names,
let us pronounce with befitting reverence
those which are familiar to us.

Fulfill, O God,
the hopes they cherished for us
and the prayers they sent up
for those coming after them.

Keep us true to the common faith.
Let us achieve sweetness
in the face of fret and anxiety,
and do Thou vest us with the purity of heart
out of which we may see God.

In this day of our collective remembering,
fill us with the gladness
of all who have stood where we stand,
in the multitude keeping holyday.

We ask that we be enrolled
in the Heavenly Kingdom
and endued with the gifts of the Spirit
becoming our eternal citizenship.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

APPLE DAY IN THE ORCHARD

Our Heavenly Father,
we thank Thee
for the providence
which respects our need
for variety in experience.

We are grateful for this day
and the break it occasions
in the rhythm of our campus preoccupations.

Bless the food we are about to enjoy,
and give us the capacity to be merry
and good humored
in all the gaiety
that has beckoned us here.

For Christ's sake. AMEN.

PARENTS' DAY

Our Father,
we thank Thee for our parents
who have come to the campus
for this festal occasion.

As we learn to achieve
some independence of them
in making our own way,
we are also increasingly aware
of all they have meant to us.

We thank thee that we began our lives
in homes where we were wanted and loved,
and that throughout our lives
we shall be steadied and gladdened
by their faithfulness.

From them, O Lord,
we learned to regard Thee as our Parent.
The discipline we received from them
has helped us to know
that Thou art a God of righteousness
with concern for all Thy children.

From them we have learned attitudes
that befit our membership
in the common human family.
Teach us to love all who are dear to Thee
in the kindliness of a common joy.

Let this be a bright day for us all —
for our parents,
who may see face to face
the persons whose names
have become familiar to them;
for our teachers,
who take a parent-like pride
in our growth;
for all fellow-students,
who will become more appreciative
of their family ties
in seeing us cherish ours.

Bless our college, our parents, our teachers,
all who love us and whom we love in turn,
and the Heavenly Kingdom of our Lord Jesus
in which we have our eternal citizenship.

In His name. AMEN.

OPENING RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS WEEK

Almighty God,
who hast given us
the kind of freedom we value so highly,
even permitting us, if we please,
to resist the Holy Spirit
and thwart the Eternal One
who would gather us under His wings,
subdue, now, our foolish pride and stubbornness
so that, of our own choosing,
we may turn to Thee and find life.

Teach us the meaning
of working out our salvation
with fear and trembling,
while trusting the grace
whereby our redemption is assured.

Enable us, we beseech Thee,
to define Thy world
and get our bearings within it,
to the end that the ways of God
and our poor human ways
may somehow mesh and coalesce,

and all to our own good
and to the glory of the ultimate design
where our hope lies.

Create and sustain in us
the high resolve to live in Christ
and to acknowledge and nurture
His gracious life in ours. AMEN.

DINNER MEETING OF THE ALUMNAE BOARD

Our Heavenly Father,
whose benevolent design
infuses our lives with meaning,
we thank Thee for bringing us together
on the campus where we were once students
and where we would take counsel
on how to serve our college more effectively.

We bless Thee
for the friendships we now renew,
and for the promise contained
in this bright day.

Surely thou hast prepared a table before us;
Surely we shall know the divine Goodness
and Mercy
pursuing us throughout our lives.

So we give thanks in Jesus' name. AMEN.

CELEBRATING A GIFT FROM INDUSTRY

We have gathered together,
our Heavenly Father,
to give thanks for the citizenship
that is in both earth and heaven,
and to recognize
that the means and ends of life
are not to be separated.

Those of us who teach
are made glad by the stewardship of industry
in equipping us to teach truth
and appreciation
and sympathy
and reverence
and effective control
in the several realms of our experience.

And those of us who fashion the materials
which sustain our existence
are grateful for the dignity
accorded us as partners
in the enterprises of the soul.

May all our labors be hallowed
as the medium for Thy providences
and as realizing the brotherhood
of all Thy children.

Show us Thy good will
  even as we share in this meal
  and discuss the things
  that are upon our hearts.

Through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

A BLESSING AT LUNCHTIME

Our Heavenly Father,
who knowest our needs
and hast taught us
to frame our petitions in thanksgiving,
we praise Thee for the human hands
through which Thy bounty has come to us.

Nor let us forget
that man does not live by bread alone,
but under the constraint of every word
which proceedeth from the mouth of God.

In Jesus' name. AMEN.

PRAISING GOD

Almighty God,
who hast blessed us
above all we could ask or think,
whose eternal impulse is love,
whose gentleness controls the Kingdom
and the Power
and the Strength
and the Glory,
we stand, every one of us, to say:
"Bless the Lord, O my soul."

Let all Thy works
praise Thy name in earth
and sky
and sea.

May we feel after Thee
and find Thee.
In our highest joy
let us give thanks to Thee;
In our undoing
let us trust Thee.

Grant us Thy forgiveness,
that in the place where it was said,
"You are not my people,"
we may hear Thee say,
"Sons of the living God."

So we sing our praises to Thee,
and so we bless the name of Thy Son
through the Holy Spirit,
who bears witness to our own spirits,
that we are Thy children. AMEN.

REJOICING IN THE LORD

O Christ, Son of the Living God,
we are adjured by Thine Apostle
to rejoice in Thee.

So often
we have presented petitions in Thy name
and viewed Thee as one
to help us get on with the business of living.

Now we have no other thought of Thee
but as the end of our striving,
the embodiment of all that we seek,
the assurance of humanity in the Godhead,
the One who understands us
and gives us support
though we be undeserving
and unlovable.
We rejoice in Thee;
again we will rejoice.

We rejoice that through Thee
is expressed the fullness of God
in wisdom and majesty and mercy.
We rejoice that God is revealed to us
in our own perspective
as well as beyond it,

that the Word has been made flesh
and has dwelt among us.
We thank Thee
that the meanings constitutive of eternal life
have been spelled out for us
in human thought and sentiment
and action and outreach.

When Thou didst quit the earth
as a physical presence,
Thou didst send Thy Holy Spirit
to bring Thine earthly life
to our remembrance,
and in such ways as to awaken us
to repentance and faith
and to productivity and joy.
We ask that the Spirit
order our vagrant and ill-coordinated impulses.
May He fuse our ambitions
with divine demands.
May He free and organize and support us
for our spiritual service.
May He in all essential things
transform us by the renewing of our minds.
May we be conformed to Thy likeness
even as Thou art the image
of our Father who is in heaven.
May we have Thy hand
and walk with Thee. AMEN.

ADORATION AT CHAPEL

Almighty God, the Eternal Goodness,
how shall we adore Thee,
seeing that Thy ways are not our ways
and that Thy thoughts are not our thoughts?

Shall it not be
with all the emotions
evoked under Thy providence
and made authentic by Thy covenant —
with the exultation
of a reaper at harvest-time,
with the tenderness
of one acknowledging
a friendship dearer than life,
with the relief
of a mariner
on a calm sea after the typhoon,
with the wonder
of one perceiving for the first time
a great principle of science,
with the zest
one feels in repeating
his best-loved poem,

with the gratitude
of one accepted
when his trespass is freely forgiven,
with the hope
that rises with the dawning day
after a night of pestilence,
with the faith in the future
of a bride
adorned for her husband?

Yea, with all our gladness,
we hail Thee, the Ground of our being,
the God of the covenant,
the everlasting Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ.

AMEN.

THE OPENING OF CHAPEL ON A SUNNY DAY

Almighty God, Creator and Lord of all,
under the warmth
and light
and cheer of the stalwart Sun,
we realize our kinship
with every generation
that has found its home upon earth.

We are grateful
for its indiscriminate shining
upon the evil and the good alike,
as if testifying to a divine acknowledgment
that in some important sense
all men are God's children.

When we dread its continued burning,
we render our thanks
for Thine having set a tent
to which it may nightly repair
and hide us for a while from its heat.
And when we are cold
and all things are frozen,
we are grateful

that we can count off the hours
until the sun shall rise
in its bright shining and warmth.

We thank Thee for having revealed to us
that the sun is Thy creation,
that Thou hast placed it in the heavens
to sustain our life,
to pace the round of our daily activities,
and to punctuate the seasons.

Teach us to associate its appearance each day
with the coming of the Sun of Righteousness
who hath arisen, as our holy faith assures us,
with healing in His wings.

May we, Thy rational creatures,
be as lesser lights
reflecting the brightness of His rising,
helping to drive the dark shades of night away,
and proclaiming anew the Gospel message
of the light and love He brings to all.

AMEN.

A CLOUDY DAY IN CHAPEL

Lord,
whereas men devise massive walls,
vaulted ceilings,
colored windows,
and flickering candles
to provide the dim religious light
in which to commune with Thee,
we shall take the overcast
of this morning hour
as Thy call to worship.

We remember those who read Thy presence
in the pillar of cloud by day,
who took darkness
to be the proper abode of God,
who found Him in the primeval storm.

We come to Thee
not out of gloom,
and not out of dampened spirits,
but in the assurance
that all things come of Thee,
whether seedtime or harvest,

or cold or heat,
or summer or winter,
or day or night.

Let us, therefore, join all Thy works
in all places of Thy dominion
to praise Thee
and to boast
that the Hand that hath made us
is divine.
We approach with awe and wonder
what reverent men have styled
the Tremendum,
the Abyss,
the Eternal,
the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory.

But let us be filled with joy
as we know we are always and forevermore
environed by the love that spoke through Jesus
and proclaimed its invitation from a cross.

AMEN.

FOR A SICK STUDENT

Our Heavenly Father,
we come before Thee
knowing that we should in nothing be anxious.
Yet there is a heavy burden upon our hearts
because we have been told
that our friend and fellow student
is grievously ill.

We respect, O Lord,
as coming from Thee all that we know
of cause and effect and probability,
and we are thankful
that we have been able to commit our loved one
to those who have knowledge of these things
and work in their light for her recovery.

We are not satisfied
that her case should be left here.
Beyond the realm of impersonal law
and beyond the reach
of human sympathy and skill,
we seek something more.

We appeal to the compassion of the One
who knoweth our frame,
who remembereth that we are dust.

We believe that He,
who doeth according to His Will
in the army of heaven
and among the inhabitants of the earth,
bends His ear to human petition.

We know that in everything
God works for good with those who love Him.
It is in this faith
that we draw nigh to Thee.
We would not be presumptuous
in thinking that our counsels are wiser
and more benign than Thine own.
We cast our burden upon Thee,
content that whatever answer comes from Thee
will convey the loving-kindness
that endureth forever.

Share Thy light and Thy truth
with us Thy children
in this troublous hour.
Let us feel Thy presence
and Thy power
and be comforted.

We pray because of Him who healed the sick
and showed forth the love of God. AMEN.

CONFESSING OUR SINS

Almighty God, the Judge of all the earth,
we stand before Thee
to confess our sins.

We ask that nothing in our present posture
shouldst add to the already grievous burden
of our guilt.

We know that our thoughts are corrupt,
that our aims are deviant from Thine own.

Even as we pray for forgiveness,
we are aware of sinful impulses
seeking to dispute the divine mastery.

We say one thing
and wish another,
and there is no health in us.

Yet Thou hast wrestled with us, O God,
and would it not be the greater sin
to disclaim any healing in Thy discipline?

Deliver us, then,
  from disillusionment
  as well as from pride and indifference.
Stir our human powers
  to renew the war against evil,
And strengthen our feeble wills
  that we may grow
                and mature
                and delight
  in all things that are godly
  and of good report.

Let us acknowledge Thy dominion
and believe that it will extend one day
  from sea to sea,
ordering the human world to Thy liking.

Create in us clean hearts,
renew the right spirit within us,
enable us to bring forth
    the fruits meet for repentance,
and establish our joy
    in the Everlasting Loving-kindness.

We ask through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

AMEN.

CHRISTMAS

Almighty God, Creator and Lord,
we come to bless Thee
for taking the form of a servant
and sharing the lowliness
of the human estate
in order to show Thy love and authority
in a manner we may,
at least in part,
comprehend.

We thank Thee for the Word
that became flesh
and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.
We thank Thee for the Christmas carols
written at different times
and in divers languages,
each perceiving something special
to wonder at
in the coming of the Savior.

May we have His peace on earth
and the good will with which to receive it.

May we learn a greater charity,
following Him,
toward the human nature
which so often lacks grace
in ourselves and others.
May we, captured by His Spirit,
become the salt of the earth,
the lights of the world,
the faithful stewards
who care for the hungry,
the sick,
the isolated,
the despairing.

Let us be as eager for the vision of God
as was he who once asked,
"Show us the Father and it sufficeth us."
And may we be as satisfied
as those who gave their thanks for the assurance,
"He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father."

In the gladness of the Christmas season,
let us sing our songs in high spirits,
joining with fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains,
to repeat the sounding joy. AMEN.

GOOD FRIDAY

Almighty God,
who hast created us
for Thine own glory
and dost bring judgment upon us
when we do scorn Thy commandments,
we confess
that we are indeed sinners in Thy sight.

On this day,
as it shall be at the end of our lives,
there are so many unexpiated wrongs,
so many outrages unavenged,
that we might expect our God to consume us
in His jealous wrath.

We praise Thee, O God,
that Thou hast not chosen to do this,
but hast elected to absorb
these arrearages of ours
to Thine own hurt.
For Thou hast shown us
that while we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us.

He was wounded for our transgressions;
He was bruised for our iniquities,
and all this not merely
because of our human intransigence
but because it was the will of the Lord
to bruise Him
and to put Him to grief
and to lay upon Him
the iniquity of us all.

Thou hast taught us, our gentle Father,
that in the cross of Christ
we are to read Thine own inextinguishable love,
that God was in Christ
reconciling the world unto Himself.

Let us, O Father,
be moved by this sacrifice
and repent of our sins
and rejoice in Thy forgiveness
and evermore be of good comfort in Thy grace.

Through Jesus Christ,
our Strength and our Redeemer. AMEN.

EASTER

O Lord God,
if we make our bed in Sheol,
Thou art there.
Truly, there's not a place
where we can flee
but God is present there.
We thank Thee for the power
that brought our Lord Jesus back from the grave
to give us the assurance of life beyond death.

Cheer us in this faith, O God.
Let us not be confounded
by those who would ask questions
we cannot and need not answer:
How are the dead raised up?
With what body do they come?
Let us, rather, rest in the conviction
that God has everywhere granted to the Personal
power to order the Impersonal,
that at the most critical juncture of all time
He would not suffer His Holy One
to see corruption,
and that because Christ lives
and loves us,
we shall live also.

We praise Thy name for the love of Christ,
  from which nothing can sunder us.
We thank Thee for the heavenly kingdom
  He has opened to believers,
  for the citizenship to be realized
  by all who trust and obey.

Let us know Him and have eternal life.
Let us walk our earthly path in His company.
Let us be assured,
        as we peer into the future
        where our present vision is dim,
that all will be well because we are His.

And now, as we call Thee our Father,
let Thy Spirit bear witness with our spirits
that we are the children of God
and fellow heirs with Christ,
in the promise of which we rejoice
                and are glad.
Our prayer is made in the name of Him
who was designated Son of God in power,
according to the Spirit of holiness,
by His resurrection from the dead,

Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

EXAMINATIONS

Almighty God,
we thank Thee for the powers
Thou hast bestowed upon us
in creating us in Thine own image.

Now we enter the season
when our academic abilities
and limitations
are measured and certified.
We confess to a certain shrinking
from this ordeal,
fearing for our self-esteem
and anxious lest some ill-considered gesture
bring pain to others needing our support.

Let this public evaluation of our powers
be just and charitable.
Grant unto those who test us
fair standards and procedures,
and let them apply them to our appraisal
with all honesty and good will.

Show us who have been pupils
what our strengths and weaknesses are.

If our marks are high,
  keep us humble in the face of all
  that remains to be learned,
  and ready to serve
  with the gifts our teachers respect.
When we are found wanting,
  save us from unwarranted loss
  of self-esteem,
  as well as envy of those
  who have surpassed us.
Let us never waver in the assurance
  that we have something to contribute
  to the common life,
  whether on the campus or beyond.
Teach us to be grateful for others
  who can compensate for our inadequacies,
  even as they acknowledge the ways
  in which we shall assist and comfort them.
Bring us, in some phase of our life,
  to know the thrill of pride,
  but let us not be disorganized
  because of it.

And let us render our service under God,
and believe
that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. AMEN.

HONORS

Lord,
we thank Thee
that those who have been found faithful
may hear Thy commendation,
may learn from Thine own lips
that they are good and faithful servants.

We dare not arrogate to ourselves
such "well dones" —
being conscious of our mixed motives
and knowing that at best
we are unprofitable servants.
But neither would we withhold from others
their rightful due
within the human perspective
that we all share.
Let us realize the better part in ourselves
by outdoing one another in showing honor.

We thank Thee
for the joy of their teachers
in these tokens of their learning.

We thank Thee
for the standard of diligence
in accomplishment
which these honor students
have set before us.
Help them to wear their laurels
with dignity,
free from false pride,
and in the spirit of the steward
who has been given much
and of whom much is expected.

Let us whose names have not been read out
be generous with our praise,
for thus shall we incite ourselves
to higher achievement
and the fuller realization
of our potential.

In Christ's name. AMEN.

ELECTIONS

Almighty God, the Universal Sovereign,
we ask that we may know
and respect Thy will for us
as we select our leaders
for another year.

Save us from narrow outlooks
and irrelevant biases,
lest they threaten
what belongs to all of us together.
Show us the kind of leadership
our organizations require.
Let us justly assess
the personal qualities of our candidates,
knowing that we must get along with them
and respect them
if we are to accept their suggestions
and act upon them.

Deliver us from Pharisaic perfectionism,
from unwillingness to choose
and follow leaders
because they have shortcomings.

Though our undertakings fall short
of our highest standards,
let us perceive that they may,
nevertheless,
be worthwhile and deserving of our support.

And while pursuing the special aims
of our several organizations,
enable us
to keep before us the larger goals
that go with our more inclusive
associations and interests.

Let us not rest content
until all our concerns
are brought under the control
of Thy kingdom.
Guard our larger life
against the bigotries and encroachments
of what is merely parochial.
May we be led of Thee to lofty aims
and just evaluation of ourselves,
our fellow students,
and our common enterprises.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

THE JUNIOR-SENIOR BANQUET

Almighty God,
who hast prepared a table before us
where our cup runneth over
and from which we shall be pursued
all our lives long
by Thy goodness and Thy mercy,
may we be conscious of Thy presence
wherever we are.

We thank Thee for our seniors,
whom we honor this evening.
We have followed their footsteps
since entering college
and are a little tremulous
as we think of assuming
the responsibilities of leadership
they are bequeathing to us.

Bless them
as they make ready
to enter upon new tasks and obligations,
and favor them with Thy grace
that they may be strong
and live lives of good report.

Give Thy blessing,
we beseech Thee,
to Mary Baldwin
and to the students
that will assemble here in years to come
to learn
and mature
and to take the hand of the Lord.

Accept our thanks
for the food now set before us,
and for the friendships we hail
in the sharing of it,
we pray through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

FROM THE LAST CHAPEL SERVICE OF THE YEAR

Colloquy: "With God in the Morning"

We have spent parts of many mornings at chapel
and learned to associate
religious meaning with the morning.
For instance, its need for faith:
"In the morning sow your seed,
and at evening withhold not your hand;
for you do not know which will prosper,
this or that,
or whether both alike will be good."

For all that, I shall trust God in the morning.

Thus says the Lord:
"Execute justice in the morning,
and deliver from the hand of the oppressor
him who has been robbed,
lest my wrath go forth like fire,
and burn with none to quench it,
because of your evil doings."

I am afraid to do evil in the morning.

Good intentions need to be disciplined
by a discerning sympathy:

"He who blesses his neighbor with a loud voice,
rising early in the morning,
will be counted as cursing."

I see that a thoughtless good will
is not enough in the morning.

Hear now the ancient story:
"Then Gideon said to God,
'If thou wilt deliver Israel by my hand,
as thou hast said,
behold, I am laying a fleece of wool
on the threshing floor;
if there is dew on the fleece alone,
and it is dry on the ground,
then I know that thou wilt deliver Israel
by my hand, as thou hast said.'
And it was so.
When he rose early next morning
and squeezed the fleece,
he wrung enough dew from the fleece
to fill a bowl with water."

I celebrate God's covenant faithfulness
in the morning.

Sometimes the morning highlights our woe:
"For all the day long
I have been stricken,
and chastened every morning."
Therefore,

"I, O Lord, cry to thee,
in the morning
my prayer comes before thee."

This is my solace in the morning.

I take heart when I realize that God is with me:
"If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
even there thy hand shall lead me,
and thy right hand shall hold me."

Whom shall I fear in the morning?

"For his anger is but for a moment,
and his favor is for a lifetime;
weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the morning."

With my whole being
I shall worship God in the morning.

LITANY: "Praise to God"

For the Providence
that hast safeguarded
the world against destruction
and protected our own campus
from fire and wind,
sickness and accident,
strife and division and irreverence,

We praise Thee, O God.

For all we have severally learned this year,
and for the growth of science and technology,
justice and welfare
and religion
throughout the land,

We praise Thee, O God.

For increase in the capacity
to stand on our own feet
and face the world without anxiety,

We praise Thee, O God

For the friends we have come to love and cherish,
and for knowing we are loved in turn,

We praise Thee, O God.

For all the signs that we matter to Thee,

We praise Thee, O God our Father.

For teaching us to love Thee
and to desire to be used of Thee,

We praise Thee, O God of our joy.

And now, for the forgiveness of our follies,
the undoing of our harms,
and the disestablishment
of all unseemly postures and conceits,

We beseech Thee, O God of our salvation. AMEN.

WHEN THE ALUMNAE RETURN

Our Heavenly Father,
we thank Thee for the providence
which has brought the daughters
of Mary Baldwin
back to their college home.

We have found it good
to be together once more,
to know again the warmth of personal regard
unchanged despite the passing years
and the traction of new interests.

We thank Thee
for knowing again that we are cherished
by those who have had the opportunity
to know us as we really are.

We are thinking, also,
of our responsibility to younger people
who need the same opportunities of growth
that meant so much to us.

Show us
how to help the rising college generation

fulfill the ambition to learn and mature
and become adequate for life.

In all that we do,
may we remember
the example of One
who taught the world
that it is more blessed to give
than to receive.

And in Christ's name we make this prayer.

AMEN.

COMMENCEMENT

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,
who hast given us life
and every needful thing
by which it has been sustained,
who hast blessed us with loving parents
and faithful teachers
and brought us at last
to this high hour of culmination,
we bless Thy name
for all we have received at Thy hand.

We recognize that this hour belongs to Thee
as well as to ourselves
and those who love us;
so we consecrate it to Thee.

Let the promise of this day
be one of service to Thy people
and in Thy name.
Control us
when we would stray from Thy ways.
Support us
when we feel weak or distraught.
Cleanse us

when we have brought Thee less
than the sacrifice
of a broken and contrite heart.
Take away all iniquity,
accept that which is good,
and we will render the fruit of our lips.

Bless all whose hopes
are being fulfilled this day:
our parents,
our counselors in church and community,
the friends and loved ones
of our own generation,
the instructors
under whose kindly discipline
we have appropriated
our part of the heritage of the ages.

And in the coming years,
while all things change,
do Thou, O God,
continue to lead the way
and be our guard whilst troubles last,
the constant occasion of our joy
and the final haven of our souls.

Through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

INVOCATION AT THE LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE OF LYDA BUNKER HUNT DINING HALL

Almighty and ever-blessed God,
of old Thou didst promise
that they who waited upon the Lord
should renew their strength,
that they should mount up
with wings as eagles,
that they should run
and not be weary,
that they should walk
and not faint.
By Thy providence
we who were weak have been strengthened
to run our long race
of more than a hundred years,
and with more patience than we knew we had.

We bless Thy name, O Lord God,
that this new building
should come from the hands
of two of our own girls
who but yesterday
were under the discipline and challenge
of the common life,
and of their brothers,
the sons of the one

whose name this building will bear,
the one who came so often and so far
to counsel with us
and to pray for the future of the college.

Make this day a meaningful one for them,
and because they will use it
to show their hearts are with us,
a day that belongs to all of us together
who love Mary Baldwin.

On this hilltop, O Lord,
we have gathered week after week
to look upon Thy face
and to implore Thee for many favors:
the forgiveness of our sins,
the repair of our follies,
beyond-human leadership
out of our intellectual
and moral perplexities,
inspiration for worthy endeavor.
Now we beseech Thee, O Soul of our soul,
to show Thyself as the sharer of our gladness,
Thou who art our dwelling place
in all generations,
the source of every good and perfect gift,
the fount of every blessing,
the eternal ground of our joy.

Through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

DEDICATION OF THE CHARLES VERNON PALMER MEDITATION ROOM

Almighty God,
shall we not be filled with new wonder
that Thou shouldst seek us,
Thy frail and sinful creatures,
to worship Thee?
Shall we not be grateful
that we may worship Thee
in so many accents
and in so many settings?

We would be among the multitude
keeping holyday in Thy temple
and raising the festal shout;
we would adore Thee in the sanctuary
with dedicated art;
we would approach Thy throne in holy array
in the beauty of holiness,
in solemn pageantry,
with the modern counterparts
of timbrel
and dance
and the loud clashing cymbals.
We thank Thee that our church walls
are dear as the apple of Thine eye
and graven on Thy hand.

Sanctify, too, we beseech Thee,

those less assuming moments when,
fearful that we have praised Thee
to be seen of men,
we enter the place apart
and close the door and pray in secret
to our Father who is in heaven.
Do Thou respect the privacy of these occasions
and exclude all ears but Thine own
from the intimate rehearsal
of problems confronted in our work,
of anxiety,
and of our joy in Thee.

Now let Thy presence be felt
in the prayer room we are dedicating,
that someone might find encouragement
when overpressed in the public life
of the campus,
that two or three gathering here
may realize the promised fellowship
of the Lord.
May we in this place
be given to see the bright appearance
of our God
and learn in His company
the comfort of patience and acceptance
and the resurgence of the power
that comes with faith.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

LITANY OF DEDICATION FOR WILSON TERRACE ON THE SITE OF "OLD CHAPEL"

Because this place
where we stand
is holy ground,

We dedicate this Terrace, O Lord.

Because Thy people
have worshipped Thee
on this spot,

We dedicate this Terrace, O Lord.

Because a child was consecrated here,
and in that consecration
stood against unbridled force
and called the nations to justice
under universal law,

We dedicate this Terrace, O Lord.

Because generations of young women
have lived and learned

and taken their daily bread from Thy hand
and given thanks for all these things,

We dedicate this Terrace, O Lord.

Because we take courage
from the faith of those
who have gone before us,

We dedicate this Terrace, O Lord.

And because we believe
that Thou art our Strength
and our Redeemer,

We dedicate this Terrace, O Lord.

Bless the Lord, all ye His works,
in all places of His dominion:
Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Glory be to the Father
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost. AMEN.

DEDICATION OF
SAMUEL REID SPENCER
RESIDENCE HALL

Almighty God,
Creator and Architect of the Universe,
our dwelling place in all generations,
we ask
that Thou wilt incline Thine ear
to this our petition,
that Thou will make Thy presence manifest
in this structure
and bless those who have fashioned it
and those who will live in it.

We are filled with wonder
that Thou shouldst deign to dwell
in any house built with hands —
Thou whom the heaven
and the heaven of heavens cannot contain.
Yet Thou hast always spread Thy tabernacle
over all who, by faith,
enter into the household of Thy people,
and we invite Thee to do so here.

Our Father,
we pray Thy blessing upon him

who stands in our midst,
after whom this building has been named.
Let him find joy
in those who asked that it bear his name.
Let him never be faint-hearted.
Let him have wisdom,
and understanding,
and leadership,
and dedication
to the task that lies ahead.

And may Thy grace be shed forth upon us all,
that we labor fruitfully
in the name of Thy Son,
and in Him
and in His works
behold the glory of the Lord.

In Christ's name. AMEN.

LITANY OF DEDICATION FOR THE MARY BALDWIN LIBRARY

Thou, Lord,
in the beginning,
hast laid the foundations of the earth;
and the heavens are the works of Thine hands.

Thou wilt make me to walk
upon mine high places.

Thou hast made man in Thine own image,
after Thy likeness;
Thou hast given him power to subdue the earth
and have dominion over it.

Thou wilt make me to walk
upon mine high places.

Thou, whose temple is built without hands,
hast revealed to man
what he may fashion with his hands.

Thou wilt make me to walk
upon mine high places.

Thou hast taught man
to store up his experience
to the end that his sons and daughters
may be wise.

Thou wilt make me to walk
upon mine high places.

Thou hast awakened in Thy people
the grace of liberality,
enabling them to start the walls
of this building.

Thou wilt make me to walk
upon mine high places.

Thou hast moved our legislators
to give and lend
so that this library may serve our people.

Thou wilt make me to walk
upon mine high places.

Thou hast prevailed upon those
whose dwellings once stood upon this site
to give place to this storehouse
of the race's culture.

Thou wilt make me to walk
upon mine high places.

Thou hast vouchsafed to our architects
the vision of this edifice,
and hast lent strength to the artisans
who have translated it into material existence.

Thou wilt make me to walk
upon mine high places.

Thou hast pushed back the metes
of our dwelling place;
Thou hast enlarged the bounds
of our habitation.

Thou wilt make me to walk
upon mine high places.

Bless us now, O Lord God,
as we dedicate this library
to the cause of true learning,
that all the people of the earth
may know that the Lord is God,
and that there is none else. AMEN.

He will make me to walk
upon mine high places.

Surely I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will joy in the God of my salvation.
The Lord God is my strength,
and He will make my feet like hinds' feet.

And He will make me to walk
upon mine high places forevermore.
Amen.

Mary Baldwin College
MARTHA STACKHOUSE
GRAFTON LIBRARY
STAUNTON, VA 24401
540-887-7085

BV283
C7G7

76077

Grafton.

MAKE MEANINGFUL THESE PASSING YEARS.

MARY BALDWIN COLLEGE LIBRARY
BV283.C7 G7 1968
Grafton, Thomas H.
Make meaningful these passing years; pra
3 3764 00032 3313